THE STAR

RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE.

October. 1942

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Major - General Leonard Wood.

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RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE

Published monthly by the Patients of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana.
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"In order that leprosy may be dealt with successfully on a comprehensive scale, and before any large proportion of early cases will come voluntarily for examination, there must be a change in the attitude of the public toward the disease. Any scheme for the control of leprosy will depend for its success on an educated public opinion."
Recommendation of World Conference on Leprosy, Cairo, Egypt, March 1938.

FACTS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE

The transmission of Hansen's Disease being still unsolved, the medical world classes it as "feebly communicable."

The Leprosarium at Carville was founded forty-eight years ago. To date, not a single member of the personnel has contracted the disease, nor has a case developed in the adjacent neighborhood.

Doctors and nurses take very simple precautions, not comparable with those they would take in dealing with diphtheria, typhoid and other communicable diseases.

Visitors are admitted freely, nor are they required to take any special precautions.

FUN WILL FEATURE FREEDOM FAIR
Funds for Fighters

Balloons and barkers and all the color and excitement of a real carnival will be found at the Freedom Fair to be staged in the Ballroom, Sunday, October 11, from 1:00 to 9:00 P.M. The Fair is given for the benefit of the Army and Navy Relief and the entire proceeds will be sent to this fund.

There will be concessions of many kinds including Dart Game, Shooting Gallery, Rat Merry-Go-Round, Chuck-a-Luck, Bingo and a Raffle. At 7 P.M. the Ballroom will be converted into a taxi-dance palace, with the Carville belles as hostesses at 5¢ a dance. Perry's String Swingcopaters are lending their services gratis for this feature. Everyone attending will be given a lapel flag and a number which will entitle him to a chance on prizes to be given out during the afternoon. There will be a box for donations for those who do not wish to participate in the various games.

Harry, Tommie, Bee, Hank, Joe, Mike, Tony and others are working hard to put the Fair over with a bang. Carville has always "gone over the top" for all patriotic benefits and the Freedom Fair promises to be a tremendous success; of course, it all depends on you, and you, and you.

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REV. AND MRS. RASH TO ATTEND CONVENTION IN NEW YORK

The Annual Meeting of the American Mission will be held in New York City on October 22. Chaplain and Mrs. Rash have both been asked to speak on the program that day. On Wednesday the 21, the Board of Directors of the American Mission will meet for a business session and Annual Dinner and the Chaplain and Mrs. Rash will attend the meeting and be guests at the dinner. They have, also, been asked to attend the meeting and spiritual Retreat of the Regional Secretaries and the staff of the American Mission October 23-25.

During the absence of the Rashs from Carville Rev. Mr. Hutton of Baton Rouge will be on call.

WAR STAMPS

America is at war. It is a war to the bitter end. We must win! All personal luxuries must be subordinated to this end. The Torch of Freedom must not be permitted to be extinguished by the enemy. Rally to your Government's call. Buy United States War Bonds and Stamps today, tomorrow and every day.

The October drive is now in progress. Be sure to invest your 10%.

September sales amounted to the sum of $170.00.

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WM. DANNER VISITS CARVILLE

Mr. Wm. Danner of Montclair, New Jersey, secretary-emeritus of the American Mission, arrived in Carville on Tuesday, September 29 for a two day visit. While here he was the guest of Rev. and Mrs. Clifton E. Rash. Mr. Danner has been connected with the Mission since 1911 and made his first visit to this hospital in 1912. Many visits have followed. During his thirty years activity in mission work Mr. Danner has made trips to leprosaria all over the world.

In commenting on the changes that the recently completed building program have brought about in Carville, Mr. Danner quoted II Chronicles 9:6, "Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it; and, behold, the one half of the greatness was not told me: for it exceedeth the fame that I heard."

Mr. Danner, who is 80 years young, will visit in St. Louis and other points before returning to his home.

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Mrs. McCormick Here

Mrs. L.L. McCormick of Destrehan, La. spent Friday afternoon, October 2 visiting her many friends among the patients and personell of this hospital.

WHAT THE PATIENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE

This is the third in a series of articles written for THE STAR by Dr. G. H. Faget, Medical Officer in Charge.

III
EVOLUTION OF HANSEN'S DISEASE IN THE PATIENT

If it is true that adults have a certain immunity to Hansen's Disease why is it that some of them develop this disease even when their family is free from it? Remember that, although adults have some protection against the disease, they are not completely immune It is conceivable that sufficient or repeated exposure together with an unusual weakening of the body's defensive mechanism may culminate in the production of leprosy. That this is a rare occurence is evidenced by the fact that so few doctors and nurses in leprosariums have contracted the disease. What usually happens is that the Hansen germs gain access to the body during the susceptible childhood age and lie dormant for years, waiting for a favorable opportunity to multiply and cause the disease. This favorable opportunity comes when the person's health is undermined for any reason. A common time for this to occur is during the period of growth and development between puberty and adulthood, when the functional equilibrium of the body is taxed to its utmost. Other predisposing factors in the development of Hansen's Disease are such adverse living conditions as undernutrition, overwork, exposure, dissipation, and any debilitating disease.

It is a well-known fact that leprosy develops more frequently in men than women. Throughout the world this seems to be true in the proportion of two or three men to every woman. It is felt that women are protected by certain internal secretions of the body which better adjust them physiologically to resist the disease.

Hansen's bacillus multiplies best in certain tissues of the body, the skin, the peripheral nerves and some of the internal organs. As has been said before, it is a hardy germ. Once it has adapted itself to the body, it multiplies so frequently that it accumulates in tremendous numbers. Perhaps in no other infectious disease of man does an invading micro-organism appear in such large numbers.

The fact that this large number of germs produces so few toxic symptoms shows that they are only slightly injurious to the cells of the body and accounts for the chronicity of the disease. When present in large numbers these germs accumulate in clumps like bunches of bananas. These masses of germs have long been known as "globi", (Latin for spheres or balls).

Since this is the only germ which forms itself into "globi" in the body, globinosis suggests itself as a good scientific name for Hansen's Disease. It is a more descriptive or accurate term than leprosy. An added advantage would be the approval of all sufferers from the disease. No longer could they be referred to as "lepers" which is an undeserved insult. It must feel like a slap in the face every time they are called by that name.

Tuberculosis and leprosy have always been considered closely allied diseases by the medical profession. Their relationship would be further evidenced by this change in nomenclature. Just as tuberculosis is the disease characterized by theformation of "tubercles" in the body so globinosis is the disease characterized by the formation of "globi" in the body.

The general public would not associate globinosis with that ancient plague of Bible days-the leprosy whose victims had to announce their approach by ringing a bell. This would be in keeping with the modern concepts of this disease.

Because of their presence in large numbers the Hansen bacilli are easily found in glass smears made from the tissue juices of the diseased areas. These smears must be stained by a special method and examined under the microscope before the germs can be seen by the doctor. This is the best method of confirming the diagnosis and distinguishing Hansen's Disease from other diseases which may resemble it.

MAJOR-GENERAL LEONARD WOOD

Eighty- two years ago October 9th, 1860, Leonard Wood was born in a little town in New England. Two years later he saw his doctor father march away to the war between the states.

Upon graduating from Harvard Medical School he followed in his father's steps as a medical officer with the troops chasing Geronimo. Thirteen years more and he became colonel of the Rough Riders of the Spanish American War, one of the most colorful regiments that ever rode under the stars and stripes.

San Juan Hill..victory! Then governor of Santiago. From Santiago to Havana...first American governor of Cuba. With the other harassing problems, suddenly confronted with the devastating, searing plague of yellow fever. Reed, Lazear, Carroll, Agramonte, tackled the baffling disease, while Wood, administrator with the heart of a physician, stood, a wall of authority, behind them. Again victory! That strange, deadly menace defeated.

Then to the Philippines as governor of the Moro Province. From that to chief of staff of the United States Army.

War in Europe! War that spread like a high tide until nation after nation crumbled into the current of hate and killing.

America at war! War unsought...war undesired. War made inevitable if freedom were to survive. Marching men ...millions of marching men...prepared hastily, but prepared at all only because of Plattsburgh and Wood and those who held with him. Victory... again!

Wood...no longer young. Bitter disappointments even when the presidency was at his finger tips. Then quiet and comfort...election to the chancellery of a great university. Before he could take office the country calling again. A commission, a short service, to the Philippines. Only a man whose integrity was beyond question could serve. At the end demands from Filipinos and Americans alike that this honest man should come to govern this possession in the Pacific.

Governor-general of the Philippines and again it was the problem of public health which emerged, despite the turmoil of his hectic days. A strange, mysterious disease again. A disease ruthless in its onslaught....a disease that made men not so sick as alone, and helpless and despondent. Once again this American found time to think and plan and appeal for those most helpless of people, victims of leprosy.

Six years of arduous labor. A governor-general who gained wide recognition, and not from his countrymen alone, as possessing a peculiar genius for colonial administration. Then, broken in health, he took his first leave to go home for medical advice. In less than three months he was dead. Political ambitions finished, military leadership finished....great colonial governor no more. And out of the disappointed and harassed life of this man there grew a memorial which thirteen years afterward continues to bear his name..a living memorial to a great American and dedicated to the medical work which lay close to his heart.

It is fitting and important, in this hour of our national history, again menaced with an even greater force of darkness....that we should turn our thoughts to great Americans like Wood. He typified America..rugged..individualist..self made..ready and quick to fight for the things for which America stands..personal liberty, freedom of speech and religion..equally ready to go to the aid of the sick and needy.

No modern Vandal, who, nineteen hundred years after Caligula, storms thru the world breathing hatred and destroying life, vehemently denouncing personal liberty and extolling the virtues of the dictator's state, shall rise at this late day in civilization and blast it all.

The ideas of liberty and humanity of a country which characteristically breeds the kind of humanitarians of which Wood is an example must not perish.

Perry Burgess, President,
Leonard Wood Memorial.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

The latest exchange to be added to our list is The Conqueror, the interesting magazine published monthly by the patients of the Western Oklahoma Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Clinton, Oklahoma. Claire Fry, editor of The Conqueror, has written us, saying, "There is a great deal of interest here in The Star and the work it represents. It is read by the editorial staff and also by the patients in the wards. Under separate cover we have sent the August Conqueror. On the San Mag Digest page we announced the addition of The Star to our exchange list. You are to be congratulated on publishing a magazine that not only disseminates knowledge but is interesting as well."

What The Conqueror said: "Those of you who have read WHO WALK ALONE will be glad to know that we are exchanging magazines with the National Leprosarium at Carville, Louisiana. Their educational magazine, The Star, is published by the patients of the Marine Hospital there.

"An educational campaign, similar to that waged against tuberculosis, is being carried on against Hansen's Disease. Leprosy, as it was formerly known, has taken the name of the scientist who discovered the leprosy bacillus. It is hoped that the new name will never acquire the stigma that has been unjustly attached to the old one."

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Like a pebble thrown into a pond causing ripples in an ever widening circle, our message is carried. The editorial, Mental Blind Spots, concerning ignorance on Hansen's Disease, originally printed in The Valley Echo, Fort San, Saskatchewan, Canada, has been reprinted by Pep, Firland Sanatorium, Richmond Highlands, Washington. We are grateful to The Valley Echo and to Pep for their interest and help.

So They Say

PROMIN IN THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

Success in the use of chemotherapeutic agents in combating infectious diseases revived the hope that eventually a substance will be found that will be useful clinically in the treatment of tuberculosis. Promin, one of the compounds used experimentally has already been discussed in the public press.

Encouraged by carefully controlled animal experiments, promin has been used guardedly in the treatment of a few cases of tuberculosis in human beings. Administration of the drug has proved difficult since its toxic effect in man is found to be much higher than in the guinea pig. In certain cases it has been found necessary to discontinue treatment because of unfavorable symptoms attributed to the drug itself. In other cases where treatment has been prolonged (5 months or more) results thus far show varying effects. In a few, definitely demonstrable improvement occurs; in others little or no change is observed; while in some patients, the disease goes on developing progressively with no apparent effect from the treatment.

It is obvious that a freshly infected guinea pig presents a very different pathological picture from that of a well developed human case with destruction of tissue and extensive fibrosis which interferes with access of the drug to living tubercle bacilli.

Despite the lack of convincing evidence of promin's value in the treatment of human tuberculosis, there appears to be a definite feeling that further trial in skilled hands is indicated. Ed., Tuber. Abstracts, June 1942. ---NTA Clip Sheet.

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Promin in Hansen's Disease on Page 5.

EMINENT MEDICAL EDUCATOR SCOFFS AT DANGER OF LEPROSY

If you are one of those persons who would rather greet a roaring lion, or turn on the gas than meet a victim of leprosy face to face --it is time to forget it. Leprosy is not the horror ignorance and vivid imagination have made it.

"There is no justification for the persecution of persons afflicted with leprosy,"declared Dr. Demasco deRivas, an eminent authority on oriental di - seases. Dr. deRivas was professor of parasitic diseases at the University of Pennsylvania, School of Medecine, for more than 30 years and retired in 1941 because of age.

In an interview, given to the Philadelphia Record several years ago, Dr. deRivas, who has personally observed or cared for several hundred cases of leprosy, brands persecution of leprosy victims a relic of ignorant barbarism. He regrets that the laws of the State of Pennsylvania demand the absolute "quarantine" of all cases of leprosy reported and illustrates its unfairness by telling of a man sent to Carville.

"This man was married and the father of several children,"said the physician. "He was supporting his family and paying for a little home. Then it was discovered he had leprosy.

"Although he had no open lesions and did not menace the life, health or happiness of anyone, he was seized and placed in solitary confinement at the Municipal Hospital and later sent to Carville. The man's family lost their home because the law which demanded he be seized made no provision for the family when the bread-winner was taken away."

"Leprosy is far more difficult to transmit than tuberculosis," declared Dr. deRivas. "Hence practical ideas about quarantine of leprosy are not justifiable unless we do the same for tuberculosis. In ancient times anyone with a skin affliction of any kind was placed on a three month's probation. All such conditions not healing at the end of this probationary period were called leprosy.It is easy to understand that under such circumstances many things not leprosy were so branded.

PROMIN IN HANSEN'S DISEASE

About 100 patients in this hospital are now on the Promin treatment, some by daily intravenous injections,others by oral administration in a modified form. Some members of the group have been on this treatment for as long as 18 months, others have only recently begun.

We understand that none of the cases under treatment have retrograded and some have shown marked clinical improvement. The consensus among the local medical staff seems to be that Promin does not kill the Hansen germs but weakens them, makes them unable to resist when the white blood corpuscles come along and nab them.

In many cases vitamins and iron are being administered in conjunction with Promin.

Dr. Faget has stated: "Thus far the results of Promin in leprosy are interesting and encouraging."

Dr. deRivas continued

"We do not yet know how this disease is transmitted. The period of incubation or length of time between when it is contracted and when it makes its appearance, may be exceedingly long.Even twenty years may elapse. The disease is usually contracted in childhood,perhaps around the age of five.

"It is my belief that people rarely, if ever, die of leprosy."

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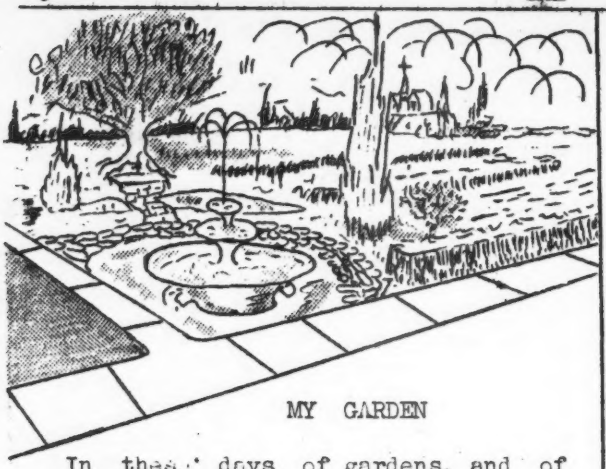
Dr. deRivas reads The Star with interest. In a recent letter, September 24, 1942, he comments: "I agree with The Star that the change to Hansen's Disease instead of leprosy is very appropiate.

"If we consider syphilis and tuberculosis,that are so easily transmitted I do not see any logic in the present treatment of patients affected with Hansen's Disease, the mode of transmission of which is not clearly understood."

MEDICOS VISIT

During the month of September the following doctors visited this hospital: Dr. J. H. Fan; H.Kabot of University of Minnesota; L.J.Roberts of Charity Hospital, New Orleans; Surgeon C.H.Binford, U.S.P.H.S.Marine Hospital, New Orleans.



MY GARDEN

In these days of gardens, and of garden making, when many of us are cultivating flowers which our grandmothers loved and cared for, and what to grow and how to grow them, fill my mind. You may be interested to know how a garden is laid out and planted by one who seemingly could not even see the flowers. This gardem lies in a seemingly darkened room. No sunlight falls upon it. No pale moon beams flood its fragrant blossoms, yet it grows and thrives and gives a world of peace and comfort.

Come and walk with me into this garden of mine. We will enter through the wide gateway of "THOUGHT". Let us walk down the center path, for it is hard and firm, because it is made of "GRIT". On both sides of the path are beautiful flowers in bloom. There is a large bed of "PATIENCE". Its coloring is always soft and gentle. There is a large bed of bright blossoms of "HOPE". Near by is that sturdy plant called "COURAGE", climbing high on steadfast poles. There is a dear little vine running in and out among the flowers, called "CHEERFULNESS". Down in that most southerly corner is a hot bed, where I raise "SMILES", because, as you well know, it often happens they have to be forced. At the extreme end of the path is a fountain. It is the fountain of "LIFE, TRUTH, and LOVE". Here I rest and sing my songs of praise, and in its cleansing pool I wash away my "TEARS" and my "FEARS".

See what a high fence I have built around my garden. It is built of "DETERMINATION", with strong, stout posts of "PERSEVERANCE". This protection is absolutely necessary to keep out the vine of "DISCOURAGEMENT", an annoying, persistent weed, doing no end of harm, which grows outside of my garden. It runs along a sort of "FRETWORK" of its own devising. Once it became so strong that it actually broke down a portion of my fence, but I soon repaired the break with a good piece of "PLUCK". I then cut down the vine, but the tendrils still remained, yet if I were watchful, they seldom got beyond the barrier.

Outside of my garden grows a tree. In appearance, something like the "WEEPING WILLOW". It is called the tree of "DESPAIR", and often casts a shadow over my bed of flowers. Occasionally, just at nightfall, a large black bird comes and sings in its drooping branches. It is called the "COMPLAINING" bird, and builds its nest in the swamp of "SELF-PITY". It has a mournful, depressing note, to which I try to pay no attention, and if I refuse to listem, it will fly away.

The only implement I have used in my garden is an "HONEST EFFORT". Let me gather a bunch of flowers for you. "PATIENCE", "HOPE", "COURAGE", "CHEERFULNESS", and "SMILES". I always tie the Blossoms together with a string of "GOOD RESOLUTIONS".

You, too, can have a beautiful garden of your own. The planting and cultivating is "MENTAL", and must be done yourself.

SOW A GOOD THOUGHT, AND YOU WILL REAP A GOOD ACT;
SOW A GOOD ACT, AND YOU WILL REAP A GOOD HABIT;
SOW A GOOD HABIT, AND YOU WILL REAP A GOOD CHARACTER;
SOW A GOOD CHARACTER, AND YOU WILL REAP ETERNAL LIFE.

Orin F. Tanner,
2220 Cambronne St.,
New Orleans, La.

Life is a one-way street. No matter how many detours you take, none of them leads back. And once you know and accept that, life becomes much simpler. Because then you know you must do the best you can with what you have and what you are and what you have become.

Isabel Moore, "I'll Never Let You Go."
Readers Digest.

NOTES FROM NEAR BYOU

An article in New York Times of Sept. 22 tells of one of our bomber crews dropping a "Made in Japan" alarm clock on the Jap base at Lae, New Guinea, together with some sarcastic messages in the package in which the clock was wrapped and suspended from two small parachutes. After giving the names of the pilot and the bombardier of the plane the article says "credit for the idea goes to Sergt. Thomas LeBlanc of Plaquemine, La." Wonder if any of our personnel know this young man?

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Our near neighbors in our bend of Ole Man River were, until a few years ago, the Landaish Plantation to the east, the Ophelia and Banks plantations to the north and the Captain Jones Place to the west, a total of some 8000 acres. Those properties were all used for rice or sugar cane growing and their owners hired a total of about 100 men.

All these places came under one ownership three or four years ago and all are now used solely for cattle raising. The owner employs only about 5 men.

Maybe that is one reason many of the personnel, especially the colored people, like to have a job at the Hospital. They know we are not going to take up cattle-raising and so reduce the available jobs by 95 per cent.

On Monday night, September 21st, a fine and enthusiastic "Send Off" party was given by the colored folks of the Carville, Cut-Off, and Sunshine communities for some 85 of their young men who were leaving next day to join the Army.

It was planned to have the party at the Benevolent Society hall but these plans were changed at the last minute and a series of progressive parties were held at the different homes of the families of those who were leaving.

Everybody was cheerful and gay and having a good time, altho, of course, some of the mothers and sisters would now and then show a little sadness.

We feel sure that happiness will be theirs when these young men return from helping win the war.

DR. GRIFFITH DIES

The news of the death of Dr. John K. Griffith at his home in Slidell, Louisiana, on Friday, September 25, after a brief illness, came as a shock to his friends in Carville. Dr. Griffith, during his tenure of office as Congressman from the 6th Congressional District manifested much interest in the patients of this hospital and assisted in securing the building appropriation. He addressed the patient body on several occasions as guest of Marine Hospital Post, American Legion, and he and Mrs. Griffith were among the distinguished visitors here in August 1941 for the opening of the new recreation building.

Dr. Griffith maintained his interest in our welfare after his retirement to private life and on September 11 sent us the following message: "Congratulations upon being a year old! May you continue to shine for many years to come. Please renew my subscription to your paper. I enjoy reading it very much. With every good wish for The Star and warm regards to all my old friends."

PROTESTANT CHAPEL NOTES

Mrs. E.C. Faulkner of Sacramento, California, was a visitor in September. This was her twentieth visit to Carville. She is a deaconess in the Free Methodist Church and makes an annual trip to see her friends here.

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Chaplain Rash will be the speaker on the Morning Devotions program of Station WJBO, Baton Rouge, October 5 to 10 at 9:30 each morning. This program is in charge of a Committee of the Baton Rouge Ministerial Association.

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On October 14 and 15 Mr. and Mrs. Rash will go to Ruston, La., where the Chaplain has been asked to speak. On the evening of the 14, he will speak at the mid-week Prayer Meeting of the Presbyterian Church. At noon on the 15 he will speak to the Kiwanis Club and in the afternoon to the Department Club composed of two hundred women.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

August 17, 1942

To the Editor of The Star:

In the August issue, under the heading "News from the M.O.C.'s Desk," appears an article about the recent visit of the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service. Can you clear up an apparent inconsistency in that article "---------was taken on a hurried and unexpected visit of inspection"------"was taken on a hurried tour throughout the colony by Medical Officer in Charge"------"He (the Surgeon General) is keenly interested in the welfare of the patients-----".

It is a matter of comment and disappointment among the patients that Surgeon General did not take the trouble to talk to any of the patients such as the Executive Committee of the Patients' Federation, the officers of the American Legion Hospital Post, or some members of the Star Staff.

If the Surgeon General was too "hurried" to do that how can he be so "keenly interested in the welfare of the patients"?

Maybe if he had talked to some or all of those mentioned he might not have "seemed well pleased with the conditions he found at the National Leprosarium."

I think you owe it to your readers to publish this comment and your explanation of the inconsistency.

Very respectfully,
W. T. L.

Editor's Note: The Star is not in a position to explain. The explanation will have to come from the Medical Officer in Charge since the item was printed exactly as sent to us from the M.O.C.'s desk.

Note by Dr. G. H. Faget

On his short visit to the Marine Hospital at Carville, the Surgeon General made a two hour tour through the Colony, during which time no patient expressed the desire to talk to him in private.

The Surgeon General's visit was followed by an inspection of the Station by Medical Director W.F. Ossenfort, who is in charge of the Hospital Division of the Public Health Service. Since this officer is the proper person to interview patients, a notice of his arrival was posted on the bulletin board. A few patients had a private conference with him.

SCHOOL NEWS

We are of many nationalities in school, but we all have one thing in common, that is the pledge to the flag before beginning our lessons in the morning.

We all have our little bugaboo in our school work.

Arthur lost some sleep the other night worrying over his spelling lesson. He hates to write spelling, but his heart leaped for joy when the teacher said, "We will spell orally today."

Kay was wishing the teacher would forget to give him some long division problems in arithmetic. Kay, did you ever see a teacher forget a lesson, especially when you wanted her to forget it?

Henry's shorthand outlines look wobbly, maybe working at the blackboard makes him less sure. What is it Henry?

Wilbert decided to go to school this year, glad to have you and we wish you success in your school work.

My typing is on the hop, skip and miss side now, but I'll get the hang of it yet, just wait and see.

Charles Matherne.

BEQUEST FOR PATIENTS BLOCKED

Columbia, S.C., Sept.15--(AP)--The Rev. John Lake leprosy colony somewhere in the Far East can have $5000 if it will give its location and figure a way to get the money across the war turbulent Pacific. The State tax commission said a bequest was made by Mrs. Garbiele C. Harris of Columbia while Mr. Lake was in Hong Kong, China. He is now in Kansas City.

WE HAVE OUR OWN FIFTH COLUMN

Since the expression "Fifth Column" originated in Spain a few years ago, it has been used to describe conditions in many places. But who would have thought that we have our own Fifth Column here in the Marine Hospital officially designated the National Leprosarium?

One of the most trying things we patients have to contend with is the frequent use, both in print and on the radio, of the word "leper" to designate those afflicted with leprosy (or as we prefer to call it---Hanson's Disease). The word is invariably used in a way to arouse aversion and repugnance and to convey the impression that those so designated are degraded and set apart as some special breed of people.

During the entire existence (ten years or so) of our little newspaper, The Star, it has had for one of its main objects the dropping from common usage, of this objectionable word. Altho' it is a tremendous task, The Star has good reason to feel that it is making some headway in the education of public opinion along the desired line. The Medical Officer in Charge, Dr. Faget, has given his support to this move in an article of his in The Star for September.

Now for the Fifth Column angle. An organization called The American Mission to Lepers (there's that word again ---why can't they call it The American Leprosy Mission) claims to work for the benefit of leprosy patients all over the world and doubtless does considerable good in some foreign countries--certainly it seems very successful in touching the pocket books of many kind-hearted and well-meaning Americans, having for its stock in trade an appeal to the emotions, thru stressing of the pitiful, horrible and repulsive features of leprosy and some of those afflicted with it. Although I've heard of this organization for years, it was only just recently that I saw their publication called "Song After Sorrow". This was the "Carville Number". Aside from the too-sugary and pollyanna articles (about which the less said the better) the word "leper" was dragged in time after time on the slightest provocation, often without provocation, and always in the disagreeable sense already mentioned.

Surely this organization (the AM2L) after its years of association with this Marine Hospital, must know of our efforts to reduce and finally eliminate the use of the objectionable word, so the use of the word in the manner described above must be a deliberate act on their part.

I am informed that the local representative of the AM2L has stated the the Mission would not, in his opinion, advocate or practice the use of "Hanson's Disease" in place of "leprosy" as the words leper and leprosy are so much more helpful in their campaigns to raise money. A reading of the article in the September 1942 issue of The Star "So You Want to Help" will explain better than I can how unimportant are cash contributions, compared to many other things the AM2L and all American citizens might give to make better the lot of those afflicted with leprosy.

If the policy of the AM2L to play up the use of the word leper, at the same time our little paper, in its feeble but earnest way, is working in the opposite direction--if that doesn't make the AM2L our Fifth Column then what would YOU call it?

W.L.--450

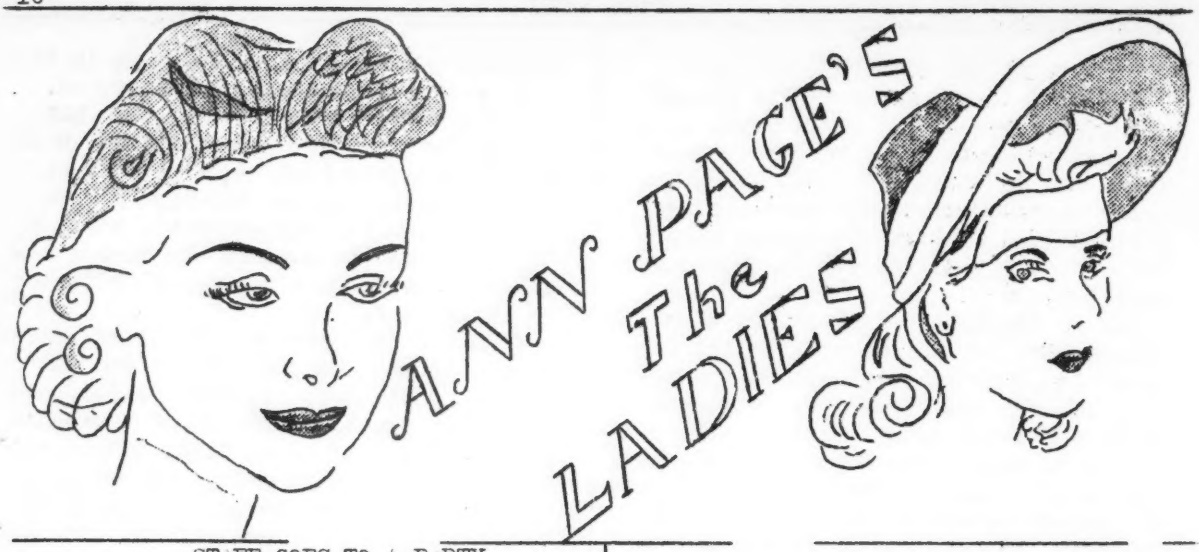
CULION LEPROSY PATIENTS CARED FOR

Largest Colony Gets Supplies- American Doctors Remain.

Sept.3,--The largest leprosarium in the world, with 6,000 patients, on Culion, one of the Philippine Islands, 200 miles south of Manila, is receiving large consignments of medical supplies, food and other necessities, according to word received yesterday from the Red Cross by the Leonard Wood Memorial, American Leprosy Foundation.

At Culion the Leonard Wood Memorial has two American doctors and their families, Dr. and Mrs. H.W. Wade and Dr. and Mrs. John H. Hanks, and their two boys, together with their Filipino assistants. Before the outbreak of hostilities in the Far East they were asked to return to their homes but refused.

Why not pass THE STAR on to a friend to read when you are finished with it ?



STAFF GOES TO A PARTY

Stanley Stein invited the Star Staff to his cottage on Monday evening, September 21 for a business meeting and a birthday party. Business was disposed of as rapidly as possible for even tho' we may have differences of opinion on some subjects we are of one opinion when a party is the subject.

Business was almost c ompleted when a messenger arrived bearing numerous telegrams for the Star. The names of some of the country's foremost people were affixed to the messages, but we know our Editor well enough to know the source of these jokes.

The birthday cake was a thing of beauty, a huge one iced in white with a big yellow star in its center. Sweets and an ice course completed the refreshments.

It has been hard work this first year of publication but the party put us in the right frame of mind to work harder this second year.

...-V...-V...-V

When assigned to us each room is an exact replica of all others. Comfortable, true, but just a room until something of one's self is transferred into it.

It is interesting to note how femininity is added and the homelike appearance each then assumes. A wide window is just a window until the frilly, ruffled, cris-cross curtains are added, gracefully draping almost to the floor in a delicate hue, then a chenille bedspread of the identical shade, plus a few boudoir pillows and hand embroidered scarfs for tables and chiffrobe. A vase of flowers fresh and perky near a photograph of that loved one.

The room next door is in no way similar to its neighbor. Furniture for each is the same, but this is a severely tailored room, no frills anywhere. Straight panels at the window, tailored scarfs, and bedspread. Yes, there they are - books and a typewriter.

Let us journey on down the hall, this is the room. Note the heavy brocade drapes, colorful taffeta spread and lace scarfs. Sundry knick-knacks are here, even a china dog for a door stop.

Next we visit a seamstress. Her sewing table seems to be the prime factor of the room, patterns, pins, needles, scissors, thread, tape line and a lovely piece of flowered fabric. She is making a glazed chintz spread to go with the new drapes and plans to trim her scarfs with the scraps.

Few rooms are without radios for they are the one extra we all deem necessary. Some rooms are the essence of neatness, some topsy-turvy, some demure, some gaudy, for each radiates the personality of its occupant. Our room is our home for the duration of our hospitalization and we like to surround ourselves with the things we most admire. The upkeep and all of the extras are our particular obligation which further enhances their value to us.

The Town Crier

Did yo u know that under the ugly wooden ramp constructed from flooring of the old board walks is hidden a beautiful three way staircase with ornate railings? This is the ramp which leads to the jail and to the cottages in the rear. Who was responsible for this architectural fiasco? Further what a horrible mistake was made by placing those two dinky doors at the top of the ramp. We are told it took the local carpenters five days to build this masterpiece. Why not one large door that swings both ways. It would save many bruised knees and tempers of our bicyclists.

...-V ...-V ...-V

Pogge's Powerful Pellets is what a local wag has dubbed Promin and 307, pleasantly and prolifically prescribed by Dr. Pogge.

...-V ...-V ...-V

Sidelight on coming Freedom Fair. Tommie is collecting mice for the mouse marathon and is offering the fabulous sum of 25¢ per rodent. One mouse proved to be a bargain presenting him with a family of four soon after capture.

...-V ...-V ...-V

We had no idea there was so much musical talent among the men until the piano from the school was moved to the game room in House 14-2. Even tho' some of the keys won't play at all, harmony both sweet and hot is heard at all hours. When curiosity gets the better of you and you poke your head through the entrance (there is no door) you are apt to find Henry, Guy, Tom, Benny Flor, "Henry Ford" or others tickling the ivories. Yes, sir, Carville now has a Tin Pan Alley of its own. Why Tom and Guy have even composed a song, word s and music.

...-V ...-V ...-V

When you can't go see the home folks its nice for the home folks to come see you. That is the way some of our patients feel who have recently had visitors from Los Angeles, California, New York City, San Antonio, Texas and, of course, the Louisiana contingent is always having someone dropping in on them.

Mr. Jim, our genial night-watchman with a side line of nocturnal lactescent perambulations, must have found that Harvest Moon on Wednesday and Thursday nights, the 23rd and 24th, very discomboberating. Let us know when the Hunter's Moon comes along in October, will you, Mr. Jim?

...-V ...-V ...-V

Hurrah! We are going to have the March of Time in the near future as a weekly feature on the local screen. Carville keeps abreast of the news and how!

...-V ...-V ...-V

When Joe Ruano answered the routine Promin Quiz, Dr. Pogge asked, "Is there anything on your mind, Joe, that would cause you to worry?"

"Yes", replied Joe, "I haven't got a girl." "Well", said the Doc, "that is something to worry about."

...-V ...-V ...-V

On Sunday, September 13, before a grandstand crowded with fans, including many visitors, the Norco Shell Pets defeated the Essos of Baton Rouge by a score of 7-6 in 11 innings in their annual baseball classic played on the local diamond. This contest is always eagerly awaited here as the big "outside" game of the year.

...-V ...-V ...-V

Percy writes from Camp Barkely in Abilene, Texas: " I expect to 'check out' in 2½ weeks for duty in a station hospital, (I hope) as Medical Technician as I was classified by the Army. I like the Army and I am doing my best at all times. I miss all of you. Thanks for the mention in the paper. I passed The Star around. Remember I am for you 100%.

Just Percy"

UNCLE JIM SEZ:

The feller thet hesitates very long at the forks of the road, is pretty nigh shore to take the wrong fork when he starts goin' again.

...-V...-V...-V

Reckon I ain't never goin' to be able to make Doc Jo understand my explanation 'bout thet hair pin he found laying on my dresser. Looks like Doc and the Shack Bully jest don't try to see things the way I want them to.

...-V...-V...-V

The voters should be reminded of that scrap-iron deal Congress made with the junk dealers and the Japs a few years back, but it shore stinks since the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

...-V...-V...-V

Went in one-o' them Eye-talian restaurants over at Santone, Texas one time to git a cup of coffee. Waal, I always thought it was alright fer a feller to eat spaghetti if he liked it but thet is the only time I ever seed folks drinking the stuff.

...-V...-V...-V

Talkin' to a woman about her age is a ticklish subject. One of my gals shore got her dander up when I sez: "Wa'al, honey, if you ain't but 29; how come you go to the beauty parlor twice a week to git the wrinkles in your nek ironed out?"

...-V...-V...-V

When most politicians look at the picture of a battle-ship it converts itself into the picture of a ballot box, and the only date they kin remember is November 3, 1942.

...-V...-V...-V

A ole Indian was talking to me about a neighbor of mine named Tom, and sed: "Huh! Tom blow wind. Heep much talk--do nothing."

Now ain't thet jest like a congressman?

...-V...-V...-V

Walter Winchell got off one that is shore worth repeating: "Many of Hitler's little pals in the United States have been arrested, but far too many of them have been nominated."

Keep it up Walter! You and Kate Smith are always right.

STAR DUST

Each time you lend a helping hand
Another star is born
To shine as a reminder
Of the splendid deeds you've done;
So never let a single day
Go by without a pause
To give a lift to someone else-
And, night-time, count your stars!
-The Shut-In Shepherd.

Under "Star Dust" we will hereafter award each month, when possible, a silver Star, carrying with it a one year's subscription to The Star, to someone, patient or personnel, for outstanding helpfulness toward others. We will welcome suggestions for this monthly nomination.

The ladies of House 16-1 have made the first nomination and so to Adam Gregoire, one of our carpenters, we present the Silver Star for October.

In presenting Mr. Gregoire's name the spokesman for House 16-1 said, "He is always so willing and so courteous in lending a helping hand, no matter what we ask him to do, from hanging curtains to oiling the door hinges, the many little things that we cannot do for ourselves, and we do appreciate it."

Adam has been employed here for 20 years and is well liked by the patients

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NIGHT SCHOOL TO OPEN

A night school for adults, sponsored by the Louisiana Department of the American Legion Auxiliary as a memorial to the late Maude Thomas, will open for the 1942-43 term on Monday, October 12 at 7 P.M. in the school room in House 14.

Classes will be held three times weekly, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 7 to 9 P.M.

The school will be conducted with the approval of Dr. G.H.Faget, Medical Officer in Charge, and Elton Record will be the instructor.

PERSONNEL PERSONALS

By Mary E. Browne

The personnel is proud to tell the world that they are buying United States War Bonds on the 10% plan. This is to be handled by pay-roll deductions, beginning with the current month's pay roll.

...-V...-V...-V

We welcome to our midst, Miss Vivian Babin, recently employed in the Administrative Office.

...-V...-V...-V

Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Butler entertained on the evening of September 15th. The guests were bidden for supper at 6:30 in the evening. A delicious repast of cold sliced baked ham, fried halves of broilers, chipped potatoes, halves of Bertlett pears, bread and butter sandwiches, and other goodies. Bridge was enjoyed and the prizes were awarded to Mrs. Gilmore and Mrs. Prejean; Mr. Engler and Mr. Warthen and the consolation prize went to Miss Browne.

...-V...-V...-V

School has started and all the youngsters have returned to classes. The school session opened on September 3 and there were 4 beginners enrolling from the station: Louis Michale Nicolosi, Earl Roberts Jr., David Owen Dubrueil and Shirley Hause. Then new pupils at St. Gabriel School were Perry and Susan Butler, who have come to live here since the closing of the last school session.

...-V...-V...-V

Uncle Sam has called another member of the personnel. He is Max C. Hoffman whose genial smile will be missed.

...-V...-V...-V

Visitors to the station recently included Misses Eunice Plaisance and Wanzie Pickett.

RINGERS' TOURNAMENT ENDS

The Ringers' Handicap Tournament which has been underway for several weeks, held under the direction of the Greens Committee of the Marine Hospital Golf Club, came to an end, week ending September 26. 14 centestants entered with 8 completing the tournament. The results showed the winners to be:

1st - Mrs. S.H. Butler
2nd - Bennie Engler
3rd - Dr. B M. Prejean

Presentation of the prizes was made by Dr. G.H.Faget, as President of the Marine Hospital Golf Club, on Monday, September 28th, in the Personnel Theatre, prior to the movies.

The tournament was enjoyed by all. It was a source of interest and conversation, and it is hoped that other tournaments will be arranged. The Greens Committee is appreciative of the efforts of Mr. Butler in maintaining course in the best of condition, and to Mr. Pearson Babin, who tabulated and tallied the scores of the contestants.

...-V...-V...-V

Dr. B. M. Prejean had quite a thrill one evening during the month and so did Max Faget, S.H.Butler and Pearson Babin, who were playing with him. At the 5th hole (101 yards) Dr. Prejean made a "hole in one". Only once previously on this course has this been done for which Jim Wintz holds a trophy. It is a rule of the Marine Hospital Golf Club that a trophy shall be presented to anyone making a hole in one, and so Dr. Prejean is in line for a trophy. Dr. Prejean is making the news as this story was carried by the Morning Advocate of Baton Rouge, The Times Picayune of New Orleans and now he is making the Star. The following letter from Sam H. Jones, Governor of Louisiana has been received by him:

"It is my custom to commend our good citizens for outstanding achievements. I don't think a thing so rare as a hole in one ought to go unnoticed. Congratulations and may similar good fortune attend your other activities."

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War
Stamps.
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